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## IS THE GED AN OPTION FOR ME?

### What Is A GED?

The General Educational Development (GED) testing program is an opportunity for someone who has not completed high school to earn a State of Nebraska High School Diploma. The GED may provide an avenue to pursue higher education, join the military, obtain a job or job promotion and achieve personal goals.

- **Employment** – Most employers will accept a GED in lieu of a high school diploma.
- **Military** – Check with your local recruiter as requirements differ between branches of the military.
- **Higher Education** – Nearly all colleges and universities have policies to admit students without a traditional high school diploma. Check with the admissions counselor.

### What Are The GED Tests?

The GED Tests measure major academic skills and knowledge in the core content areas that are learned during four years of traditional high school. There are five GED Tests on the following subjects: Social Studies, Science, Mathematics, Language Arts: Writing, and Language Arts: Reading. A direct writing assessment is included in the writing test. The GED Tests take more than seven hours to complete and may be taken over a period of time.

### Is The GED An Option For Me?

- **Age:** Are you at least 16 years old?
- **Current School Status:** Have you been officially withdrawn from school for at least 60 days or received a waiver from the school you last attended?
- **Permission from Parent or Legal Guardian:** If you are 16 or 17 years old, do you have your parent's or legal guardian's permission to officially withdraw from school?

### How Do I Prepare For The GED Tests?

Passing the GED Tests may require some preparation on your part. There are Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programs located throughout the state that can help you study for the GED Tests. These classes are free. The ABE Instructor will help you decide what you need to study as well as assist you in developing a study plan that will work best for you. If you are 16 or 17 years old, you must attend ABE Review classes. Accommodations may be available for individuals with verified disabilities.

To locate the ABE Program nearest you, call: (402) 471-4807 or visit the website at: [www.nde.state.ne.us/ADED.home.htm](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/ADED.home.htm)

ABE Program \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### How Much Does It Cost To Take The GED Tests?

The fee for testing ranges from \$35 to \$50, depending on which Official GED Testing Center you use.

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### **How Do I Apply To Take The GED Tests?**

**To apply to take the GED Tests, you must submit the following forms and documents to the Official GED Testing Center:**

1. Completed and notarized NDE Form #12-003 (available from the Nebraska Department of Education or GED Testing Center);
2. Evidence that 60 days have passed since your official withdrawal from school or a waiver of the 60 day period from the school you last attended; and
3. Supporting documents required by the GED Testing Center.

**If you are 16 or 17 years old, you must submit the following documents, as well as those listed in #1 and #2 above, to the Nebraska Department of Education at the address below:**

- A hand-written letter stating the circumstances of your withdrawal from school and reasons for wanting to take the GED Tests;
- Official copy of your transcripts from the high school you last attended, indicating the date of your official withdrawal and graduation date of your class; and
- A copy of your birth certificate, if your birth date is not on the transcripts.

#### **GED Administrator, Adult Education**

Nebraska Department of Education  
301 Centennial Mall South, P.O. Box 94987  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4987

### **Am I Ready To Take The GED Tests?**

First, the ABE Instructor will give you a reading, math and language assessment to determine your readiness to take the GED Tests. When the ABE Instructor decides you're ready, you can take the Official GED Practice Tests. The Practice Tests are a good tool to help determine whether you are adequately prepared to succeed on the actual GED Tests or whether you would benefit from additional study or practice. Your ABE Instructor will help you interpret your Practice Tests Scores and determine the next step. Once you have your ABE Instructor's approval, you will be able to apply to take the actual GED Tests.

### **Where Do I Take The GED Tests?**

To locate the Official GED Testing Center nearest you, call the GED Hotline at: 1-877-EARNGED (1-877-327-6433) or visit the official GED Testing Service website at: [www.gedtest.org](http://www.gedtest.org). **Please note, you must have a valid photo ID with you to test.**

GED Testing Site \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### **How Do I Get My GED Diploma?**

After you successfully complete the GED Tests and have reached 18 years of age, the Nebraska Department of Education will send you a letter explaining how to apply for a State of Nebraska High School Diploma. There is a \$5 fee for the diploma. If you have moved and your address has changed since taking the GED Tests or you do not receive the letter, call the Nebraska Department of Education at: (402) 471-2475.

**Source:** Nebraska Department of Education, 2007